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### **Missouri's Unemployment Rate Falls Again in November**

Missouri labor market conditions improved further in November as the state's unemployment rate fell another three-tenths of a point to 5.0 percent. The latest decrease further widens the gap between unemployment rates in Missouri and the nation, which reported a rate of 5.9 percent.

November's decrease from the revised October rate is the largest monthly drop since the unemployment rate peaked at 5.7 percent in June and the rate is half a percentage point lower than it was a year ago (5.6 percent). About 149,400 Missourians were estimated to have been jobless in November, 16,700 fewer than were reported a year ago.

Missouri's unadjusted unemployment rate also decreased, falling by two-tenths of a point to 4.7 percent, down from 4.9 in October and 5.7 in November 2002. The state's unadjusted rate is also nine-tenths of a percentage point lower than the nation's unadjusted unemployment rate, which held steady at 5.6 percent in November.

"We continue to see great economic news for the state of Missouri. Not only is our unemployment rate dropping and staying well below the national rate, now we are also seeing an increase in our employment numbers," said Department of Economic Development Director Joseph L. Driskill. "Our recovery from the national recession appears to be accelerating."

Non-farm payroll employment was little changed over the month. Government employment dipped by 2,700 jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis, while private sector employment was up by 1,800 jobs. A number of private industry groups reported higher employment. The largest gain was 2,100 in educational and health services, followed by an increase of 1,200 in financial activities. Natural resources and mining; construction; manufacturing; and trade, transportation and utilities reported small increases. Employment decreased slightly in information, leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, and other services.

Not seasonally adjusted data show that the largest part of the decrease in government was in state government, but federal and local governments also reported lower employment.

Compared to November 2002 employment is up by 5,000 jobs. Employment gains are now becoming more widespread throughout the state.

Over the year, construction is up by 3,300 jobs, while manufacturing employment is down by 3,200. The largest increase came in educational and health services (10,300 jobs), while leisure and hospitality gained 3,800. Wholesale trade is up by 4,500 jobs over the year, more than offsetting the decrease of 2,600 in retail trade. Air transportation employment has fallen by more than half over the year, shedding 6,000 jobs in the wake of airline cutbacks. Telecommunications is down by 2,400 jobs, while management of companies has added 2,100 jobs on balance.

Manufacturing employment has stabilized in recent months. Gains of 1,000 jobs each in food, fabricated metal products, and transportation equipment manufacturing have partly offset over-the-year losses in other industries, particularly nondurable goods.

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**MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**  
**FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES**  
**CURRENT MONTH (NOVEMBER 2003), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2003), AND YEAR AGO (NOVEMBER 2002)**

	NOV 2003	OCT 2003	SEP 2003	NOV 2002		NOV 2003	OCT 2003	SEP 2003	NOV 2002
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.6	Atchison	2.2	2.4	2.8	2.8
MISSOURI	4.7	4.9	5.3	5.3	Audrain	4.7	4.9	5.6	5.0
ST. LOUIS MSA	5.3	5.4	5.8	5.6	Barton	3.9	3.8	4.1	4.2
Franklin	4.7	5.2	5.3	5.4	Bates	6.3	6.4	7.0	7.3
Jefferson	4.5	4.5	5.0	5.2	Benton	6.1	5.9	6.4	7.3
Lincoln	4.6	4.7	5.0	5.5	Caldwell	6.7	6.4	6.9	7.0
St. Charles	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.8	Carroll	4.0	4.0	4.3	5.8
St. Louis County	4.5	4.6	5.0	4.7	Cedar	5.8	6.3	6.3	7.0
Warren	4.7	5.1	5.5	5.8	Chariton	5.4	6.0	6.7	7.1
St. Louis City	8.9	9.5	10.4	9.5	Clark	7.1	6.7	6.5	6.5
KANSAS CITY MSA	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.8	Cooper	3.0	3.0	3.3	4.1
Cass	4.4	4.6	4.9	4.6	Crawford	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.6
Clay	3.9	4.1	4.4	4.2	Dade	4.0	4.3	4.9	4.3
Clinton	4.7	4.5	4.8	5.5	Dallas	5.7	5.2	5.5	6.1
Jackson	6.0	6.3	6.8	6.7	Daviess	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.0
Lafayette	4.1	4.4	4.9	4.9	DeKalb	4.4	4.4	4.7	5.0
Platte	3.7	3.8	4.1	4.2	Dent	5.6	5.4	6.0	7.8
Ray	4.8	5.4	5.9	4.9	Douglas	7.2	7.6	9.8	10.4
SPRINGFIELD MSA	3.4	3.5	3.7	4.1	Dunklin	6.6	7.0	7.5	7.6
Christian	3.8	4.0	4.3	4.9	Gasconade	5.0	6.3	5.6	5.0
Greene	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.8	Gentry	2.8	2.8	3.2	3.7
Webster	3.4	3.2	3.5	5.2	Grundy	5.3	5.3	5.7	4.6
JOPLIN MSA	4.4	4.5	4.9	5.6	Harrison	3.5	3.5	3.8	4.9
Jasper	4.2	4.4	4.7	5.1	Henry	6.7	6.7	7.1	6.2
Newton	4.8	4.6	5.2	6.6	Hickory	8.7	9.1	9.2	7.7
COLUMBIA MSA	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.0	Holt	3.2	3.3	4.0	4.5
Boone	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.0	Howard	3.5	3.6	3.5	4.9
ST. JOSEPH MSA	4.9	5.1	5.3	5.8	Iron	6.4	6.7	7.5	9.9
Andrew	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.5	Johnson	3.5	3.4	3.7	4.0
Buchanan	5.0	5.2	5.4	6.1	Knox	3.9	3.3	3.5	3.0
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	3.4	3.6	4.1	2.5	Laclede	8.8	7.1	8.1	5.7
Adair	3.1	3.4	3.9	2.3	Lewis	3.5	3.5	3.8	3.7
Schuyler	5.2	4.8	5.4	3.7	Linn	8.7	10.3	11.2	10.8
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	4.9	4.9	5.2	5.7	Livingston	4.1	3.9	4.1	4.1
Butler	4.6	4.5	4.7	5.4	McDonald	5.1	5.1	5.3	6.5
Carter	6.3	4.9	5.2	6.4	Macon	5.0	4.7	5.2	5.4
Ripley	5.2	6.5	7.1	6.7	Madison	5.8	5.8	6.6	8.1
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	5.5	4.5	4.2	7.1	Mercer	4.8	4.2	4.5	6.7
Camden	5.6	4.4	4.0	7.1	Monroe	6.0	6.0	6.5	6.9
Miller	5.3	4.7	4.3	7.2	Montgomery	5.2	5.7	6.0	5.6
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	4.7	4.8	5.2	5.5	Morgan	5.6	5.0	5.0	7.5
Bollinger	5.4	5.0	5.0	5.6	Nodaway	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.7
Cape Girardeau	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.9	Ozark	5.0	4.2	4.5	6.1
Mississippi	6.2	6.8	7.5	8.5	Pemiscot	8.6	8.8	9.9	10.6
New Madrid	8.1	8.1	9.4	10.6	Perry	2.7	2.6	3.0	3.1
Scott	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.5	Pettis	4.5	4.8	5.2	5.4
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	2.6	2.8	3.1	3.4	Pike	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.9
Callaway	2.9	3.1	3.6	3.4	Polk	3.3	3.7	4.7	4.2
Cole	2.4	2.4	2.8	3.1	Pulaski	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.4
Moniteau	2.5	2.6	2.4	3.6	Putnam	4.9	5.1	6.1	4.1
Osage	3.5	3.8	3.8	4.5	Randolph	4.1	4.2	4.6	4.5
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	5.8	5.7	5.3	5.1	Reynolds	9.7	8.1	8.3	9.4
Howell	5.7	5.9	5.7	4.7	St. Clair	5.6	5.8	6.8	5.3
Oregon	4.2	3.9	4.2	3.7	Ste. Genevieve	4.5	4.2	4.9	5.0
Shannon	8.2	6.9	5.0	8.4	Saline	4.2	4.3	5.0	5.2
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	4.3	4.0	4.2	4.9	Scotland	3.3	2.2	2.8	3.6
Barry	4.4	4.1	4.1	5.4	Shelby	4.2	4.4	5.7	4.5
Lawrence	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.4	Stoddard	5.1	5.0	5.4	6.2
MARION-RALLS LMA	4.7	4.6	5.0	4.9	Stone	6.8	5.7	5.9	7.2
Marion	4.4	4.6	5.1	4.9	Sullivan	5.9	6.1	7.0	3.9
Ralls	5.6	4.6	4.8	5.0	Taney	3.6	3.3	3.5	4.3
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.3	Texas	7.6	7.3	7.7	7.8
Maries	3.0	3.2	3.6	3.6	Vernon	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.7
Phelps	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.2	Wayne	9.3	9.5	9.3	11.4
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	6.5	6.6	7.5	8.3	Worth	4.1	3.7	3.1	4.4
St. Francois	6.1	6.3	7.3	7.9	Wright	7.1	6.8	7.1	8.0
Washington	7.4	7.4	8.0	9.4					

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.

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